

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of the Claims:

1. (currently amended)A swivel joint (41) for a construction machine comprising a lower travel structure and an upper swing structure mounted on said lower travel structure, hydraulic equipment disposed on said lower travel structure and including travel motors and a blade cylinder and hydraulic equipment disposed on said upper swing structure and including valve apparatuses for control of said travel motors and said blade cylinder said swivel joint, comprising a body (42) rotating together with said [a] swing structure (71, 1), and a spindle (43) mounted to said [a] travel structure (70, 2) and rotatably inserted in said body, [said swivel joint being provided with] a plurality of first tubes (21) which extend to said hydraulic equipment disposed on said upper swing structure and including said valve apparatuses for control of said travel motors and said blade cylinder (80a) being connected to said body and a plurality of second tubes (23) which extend to said hydraulic equipment disposed on said lower travel structure and including said travel motors and said blade cylinder being connected to said spindle, said plurality of first tubes and said plurality of second tubes being communicated with each other through a plurality of circumferential grooves (44) formed in an inner peripheral surface of said body and an outer peripheral surface of said spindle and through a plurality of axial passages

(45) formed inside said spindle such that said plurality of first tubes and said plurality of second tubes are coupled to each other in a relatively rotatable manner,

wherein said body has thicker wall portions formed respectively in opposed sidewalls thereof, a plurality of axial passages communicating with said plurality of circumferential grooves are formed respectively inside said thicker wall portions, said plurality of axial passages being opened at an upper end surface of said body to provide a plurality of ports and said plurality of first tubes are connected to said plurality of ports whereby said plurality of first tubes (21) are connected to said [an] upper end surface (12a) of said body (12) in concentrated layout.

2. deleted

3.(currently amended) The swivel joint for the construction machine according to Claim 1,

wherein the upper end surface (12a) of said body (12) is positioned above a main frame (4) constituting a bottom portion of said swing structure~~(71)~~, and said plurality of first tubes (21) are connected to said plurality of ports ~~(35, 36)~~ at a position higher than a bottom surface of said main frame~~(4)~~.

4. (currently amended) A construction machine comprising a lower travel structure, an upper swing structure, mounted on said lower travel structure, hydraulic equipment disposed on said lower travel structure and including travel motors and a blade cylinder and hydraulic equipment disposed on said upper swing structure and

including valve apparatuses for control of said travel motors and said blade, and a swivel joint for coupling a plurality of first tubes extending to said hydraulic equipment disposed on said upper swing structure and including said valve apparatuses for control of said travel motors and said blade cylinder and a plurality of second tubes extending to said hydraulic equipment disposed on said lower travel structure and including said travel motors and said blade cylinder [a plurality of tubes for communication between hydraulic equipment, including a valve apparatus, disposed on said upper swing structure and hydraulic equipment disposed on said lower travel structure] in a relatively rotatable manner,

wherein said swivel joint comprises a body (12) rotating together with said upper swing structure (71, 1), and a spindle (13) mounted to said lower travel structure (70, 2) and rotatably inserted in said body,

said [plurality of tubes for communication include a] plurality of first tubes (21) being connected to said body and said [a] plurality of second tubes (23) being connected to said spindle, said plurality of first tubes (21) and said plurality of second tubes (23) being communicated with each other through a plurality of circumferential grooves (41) formed in an inner peripheral surface of said body and an outer peripheral surface of said spindle and through a plurality of axial passages (45) formed inside said spindle, and

wherein said body has thicker wall portions formed respectively in opposed sidewalls thereof, a plurality of axial passages communicating with said plurality of circumferential grooves are formed respectively inside said thicker wall portions, said plurality of axial passages being opened at an upper end surface of said body to

provide a plurality of ports, and said plurality of first tubes are connected to said plurality of ports whereby said plurality of first tubes (21) are connected to said [an] upper end surface (12a) of said body (12) in concentrated layout.

5. deleted

6. (currently amended)The construction machine according to Claim 4,

wherein the upper end surface (12a) of said body (12) is positioned above a main frame (1) constituting a bottom portion of said swing structure (71), and said plurality of first tubes (21) are connected to said plurality of ports (35, 36) at a position higher than a bottom surface of said main frame (1).